Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method for detecting color misregistration in an image forming system comprising:

forming a registration patch with the image forming system;

performing spectrophotometric analysis on the registration patch;

determining if color misregistration has occurred based on the spectrophotometric analysis of the registration patch.

2. (Currently Amended) The method for detecting color misregistration according to claim 1, the ~~step of~~ forming a registration patch ~~pattern~~ further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

calculating or selecting a combined color value for the registration patch;

forming the registration patch in a combination of colors having a composite color value equivalent to the calculated or selected color value.

3. (Currently Amended) The method for detecting color misregistration according to claim 1, further comprising generating an output signal in response to ~~the step of determining.~~determining if color misregistration has occurred.

4. (Currently Amended) The method for detecting color misregistration according to claim 3, wherein the output signal indicates whether the image forming system is performing within satisfactory limits.

5. (Currently Amended) The method for detecting color misregistration according to claim 1, the ~~step of~~ performing spectophotographic analysis further comprising scanning the registration patch with a spectrophotometric device; and

obtaining a degree of color misregistration based on known dimensions of the registration patch and an amount of color shift ~~between the~~ between a color detected by the spectrophotometric device and ~~the~~ a calculated or selected color value.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for detecting color misregistration according to claim 1, wherein the ~~step of~~ forming a registration patch comprises forming a registration patch which has at least two superimposed colors formed in a line ~~whose direction is~~ perpendicular ~~to the~~ to a direction of color misregistration.

7. (Original) The method for detecting color misregistration according to claim 1, further comprising performing an adjustment operation if it is determined that an unacceptable level of color misregistration has occurred.

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming system capable of detecting and adjusting for color misregistration comprising:

a plurality of image forming stations, each image forming station forming an image in one color;

a charge retentive surface which receives each image from its corresponding image forming station and transfers the combined image to a recording medium;

a spectrophotometric device either attached to or integral to the image forming ~~device;~~ system; and

~~and~~ a controller that causes the spectrophotometric device to perform detection of color misregistration on at least one registration patch.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the controller further implements an adjustment to reduce detected misregistration.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the image forming system is a digital photocopier.

11. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the image forming system is an ink jet printer.

12. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the image forming system is a laser printer.

13. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the image forming system is one of a facsimile machine and a combination facsimile machine and printer machine.

14. (Currently Amended) The image forming system according to claim 9, wherein the registration patch ~~further comprising a registration patch~~ is formed in a combination of colors having a composite color value equivalent to a precalculated or preselected combined color value.

15. (Currently Amended) The image forming system according to claim 9, further comprising an output signal which indicates ~~the results of the spectrophotometric analysis.~~results of the detection of the color misregistration.

16. (Original) The image forming system according to claim 15, wherein the output signal indicates whether the image forming system is performing within satisfactory limits.

17. (Currently Amended) The image forming system according to claim 9, wherein the image forming system performs spectophotographic analysis, the spectrophotometric analysis ~~comprises~~ comprising:

scanning the registration patch with the spectrophotometric device; and

obtaining a degree of color misregistration based on known dimensions of the registration patch and an amount of color shift between ~~the~~ a color detected by the spectrophotometric device and ~~the~~ a calculated or selected color value.

18. (Currently Amended) The image forming system according to claim 9, wherein the registration patch comprises at least two superimposed colors formed in a line ~~whose direction is~~ perpendicular ~~to the~~ to a direction of color misregistration.

19. (Currently Amended) The image forming system according to claim 9, further comprising at least one adjustment operation, wherein the adjustment operation is able to alter ~~the~~ an image forming process of at least one of the plurality of image forming stations ~~if the~~ if a spectrophotometric analysis indicates that color misregistration has occurred.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for forming images;

means for creating at least one registration patch;

means for performing spectrophotometric analysis on the at least one registration patch to determine if color misregistration is occurring on images formed by the ~~image forming~~ means for forming images;

means for determining if color misregistration has occurred based on the spectrophotometric analysis of the registration patch;

means for adjusting ~~the~~ an image forming process to adjust for the color misregistration.